

Message Text

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1077

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MZ, RH, UK
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MACHEL ON THE RHODESIAN PROPOSAL

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF HOUR-AND-QUARTER MEETING
UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I HAD WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL THIS
MORNING. MORE DETAILED REPORT OF MEETING AND COMMENTS
WILL FOLLOW.

2. MACHEL'S OVERALL REACTION TO PROPOSAL WAS POSITIVE.
HE SAID HE PLEASED THAT FINALLY THERE IS A PROPOSAL FROM
WHICH INTERESTED PARTIES CAN NOW WORK. HE ALSO SAID HE
PLEASED TO SEE TWO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE
PROPOSAL: FIRST, THE PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE FOR ZIMBABWE
WHICH IS UNEQUIVOCAL: AND, SECOND, THE ASSUMPTION AT LONG
LAST BY THE UK OF ITS COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ADMINISTER
RHODESIAN UNTIL IT IS INDEPENDENT. "THIS MAKES IT POSSIBLE,"
SAID MACHEL, "FOR US TO PROCEED WITHOUT HAVING TO DEAL
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WITH SMITH."

3. MACHEL SAID THAT SINCE THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS. HAD
ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF ELECTIONS, "WE TOO SUPPORT
ELECTIONS," ADDING, "OUR ROLE IS TO SUPPORT THE NATIONALISTS."

4. MACHEL SAID HE HAD NOT HAD TIME TO STUDY THE WHITE

PAPER AND OWEN'S LAW AND ORDER STATEMENT CAREFULLY, BUT HE DID HAVE SOME QUESTIONS AND SOME RESERVATIONS. HE MENTIONED THREE:

A. ENTRENCHED CLAUSES. DO NOT THESE CLAUSES, ASKED MACHEL, SERVE TO DENY THE ZIMBABWEANS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THEIR OWN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES? FOR EXAMPLE, WILL ARTICLE 5 OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS PROHIBIT AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT FROM NATIONALIZING PROPERTY? THIS IS AREA ON WHICH MACHEL WANTS MORE INFORMATION.

B. "APOLITICAL CIVIL SERVANTS" WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? DOES IT MEAN THAT ANY PATRIOT WHO SUPPORTED THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE WILL BE EXCLUDED? IF SO, MACHEL THINKS THIS WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS.

C. "NEUTRALITY" OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER. MACHEL DID NOT KNOW WHAT NEUTRALITY MEANT. IF IT MEANS THAT THE COMMISSIONER WAS TO BE NEUTRAL WITH RESPECT TO ELIMINATION OF ALL VESTIGES OF RACISM AND COLONIALISM, MACHEL WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE OPPOSED. WHEN IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER WAS TO BE "IMPARTIAL" OR "NEUTRAL," WITH RESPECT TO THE TREATMENT OF THE NATIONALIST GROUPS AND LEADERS, MACHEL SEEMED TO BE SATISFIED.

5. MACHEL SAID HE HAD OTHER QUESTION, BUT THE ABOVE WERE ILLUSTRATIVE, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT SERGIO VIEIRA SIT DOWN WITH AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND MYSELF TO GO OVER CONFIDENTIAL

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THE WHITE PAPER IN MORE DETAIL. MACHEL SAID HE WANTS TO LOOK AT THE PROPOSAL CAREFULLY, SINCE ON FIRST READING IT APPEARS TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR AN ACCORD.

6. EARLIER IN DISCUSSION, MACHEL HAD SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH HE AND HIS FRONT-LINE COLLEAGUES MIGHT DISAGREE ON ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL, HE THOUGHT THAT THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS WOULD ADOPT A COMMON POSITION WITH RESPECT TO IT.
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